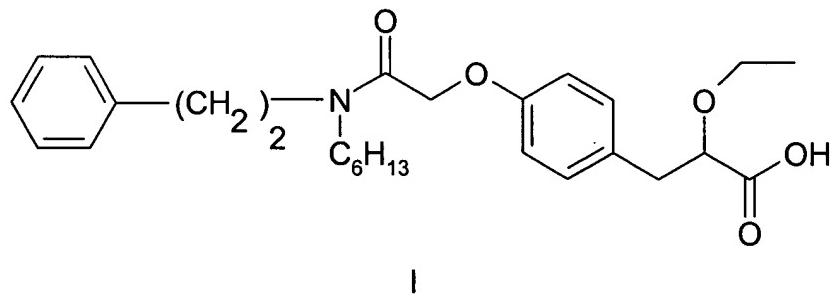


AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

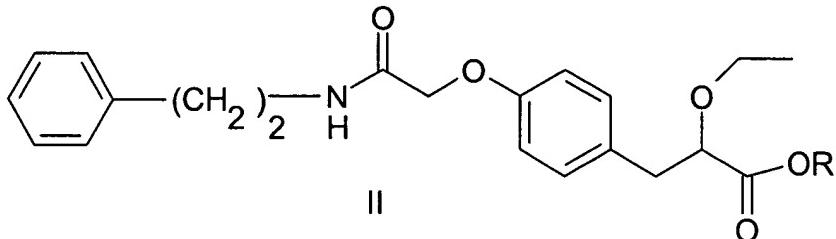
This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims

1. (original) A process for the preparation of a compound of formula I



in which a compound of formula II



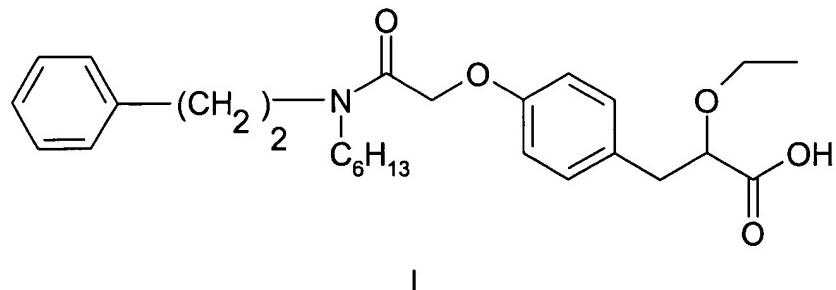
in which R is H or OR represents a protecting group for a carboxylic hydroxy group is reacted with a compound of formula III



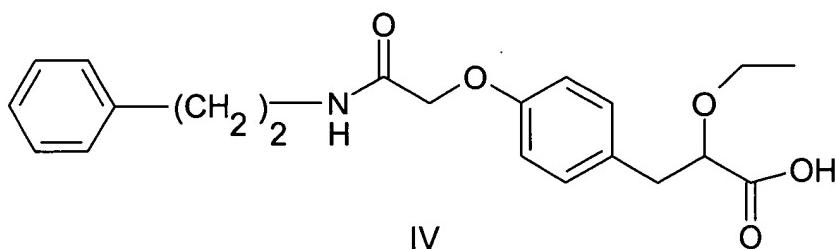
III

wherein X is a leaving group, in the presence of a base in the presence of an inert solvent at a temperature in the range -25°C to 150°C and optionally, when OR represents a protecting group, removal of the protecting group.

2. (original) A process for the preparation of a compound of formula I



comprising reacting a compound of formula IV



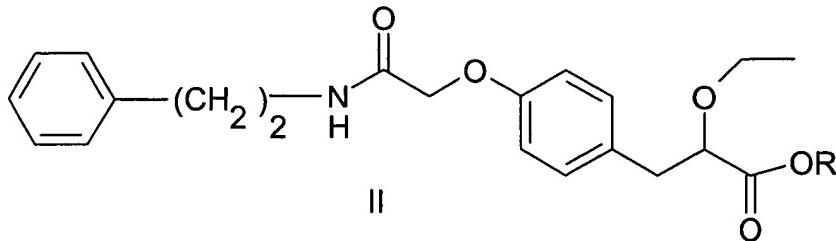
with a compound of formula III



III

wherein X is a leaving group in the presence of a base in the presence of an inert solvent at a temperature in the range -25°C to 150°C.

3. (original) A compound of formula II



in which OR represents a protecting group for a carboxylic hydroxy group.

4. (original) A compound according to claim 3 in which OR represents a C₁₋₆alkoxy group.

5. (currently amended) A compound according to ~~either claim 3 or 4~~ claim 3 which is the 2S enantiomer.

6. (original) The compound (2S)-2-ethoxy-3-(4-{2-oxo-2-[(2-phenylethyl)amino]ethoxy} phenyl)-propanoic acid.

7. (original) A process according to claim 1 to produce the (2S) enantiomer of the compound of formula I by using the 2S enantiomer of the compound of formula II.

8. (new) A compound according to claim 4 which is the 2S enantiomer.